test reports of the second laboratory was evaluated by Drugs Controller of India before certifying that they meet BIS specifications. Hence the question of conducting any investigation does not arise.

[Translation]

Anomaly in Pensions

2967. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring parity in the pension of earlier and recently retired armymen; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b). There has been some disparity in the amount of pension of persons retired at various point of time. The disparity is due to the fact that the pension is linked to the pay drawn at the time of retirement and the length of qualifying service rendered by the individual. For reducing disparity in pension of pre and post 1986 pensioners, the pension of pre 1.1.86 defence pensioners was consolidated by recalculating their pension by applying 50 percent formula and merging dearness relief upto CPI 608. A scheme for One Time Increase in pension (OTI) has also been sanctioned w.e.f. 1.1.92 to pre 1986 defence pensioners. About 8.03 lakhs defence pensioners who retired prior to 1.1.86 are expected to benefit from the OTI Scheme.

2. The above measures have substantially narrowed down to disparities in pension between pre and post 1986 pensioners.

Flyover on N.H. 31

2968. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether proposals are pending with the Government for constructing flyovers on National Highway No.31:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

State Highways into National Highways

2969. DR. SAHEBRAO SUKRAM BAGUL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government propose to convert the 11 State Highways proposed by the Maharashtra Government into National Highways:

(b) if so, the time by which these State Highways would be declared as National Highways; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c). Due to paucity of funds for the development of National Highways during the 8th Plan, it has not been possible to declare this road as National Highways.

Funds For Research Proposals

2970. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has been unable to fund a large number of research proposals of vital important due to shortage of funds;

(b) if so, the details of these proposals which could not be financed by UGC due to shortage of funds; and

(c) the future plan of action, if any, so that research projects do not suffer on account of inadequate funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c). University Grants Commission (UGC) provides requisite financial assistance to various universities and colleges for execution of research projects in different subjects and disciplines. According to the information furnished by UGC, during 1995-96, 52 Major and 54 Minor Research Project proposals in Sciences and 80 Major and 36 Minor Research Project proposals in Humanities and Social Sciences were approved as the first priority and funded as per the prescribed norms. Besides, 53 Major and 3 Minor Research Project proposals in Engineering & Technology were also approved in the first priority category. It has, however, not been possible to accommodate all proposals due to constraint of financial resources.

[English]

Loss of Life end Property by Floods in U.P.

2971. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the regions in Uttar Pradesh which had floods during the current monsoon and the total loss of life and property suffered on that account;

(b) the factors primarily responsible for floods in the State, region-wise/place-wise;